

Oct-17-07 03:33pm From-

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Amendments to the Drawings

The replacement sheet of drawing attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figure 1 of the original sheets of drawings. Figure 1 is now labeled as prior art.

Attachment: replacement sheet of drawing for Figure 1

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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 19, 2007. Claims 1-33 were pending, with claims 12-27, 29, 30, 32 and 33 having been withdrawn by the Patent Office from examination. By this Amendment, withdrawn claims 12-27, 29, 30, 32 and 33 have been canceled, without disclaimer or prejudice to applicant's right to pursue them in one or more divisional or continuation applications, claim 7 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include substantively the features previously recited in now-canceled claim 7, claim 28 has been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-11, 28 and 31 are now pending, with claims 1 and 10 being in independent form.

The drawings were objected to as having informalities.

The replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto as Exhibit A include changes to, and replace, Figure 1 of the original sheets of drawings. Figure 1 is now labeled as prior art.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as purportedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, the claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yamaguchi (US 2001/0005222 A1) in view of Tohyama et al. (US 2001/0012399 A1). Claims 28 and 31 are rejected over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable under Yamaguchi in view of Tohyama in further view of purportedly common knowledge in the art.

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Claims 2-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yamaguchi in view of Tohyama et al. in further view of Takemoto (US 2002/0021360 A1).

The Office Action indicates that claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 7 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include substantively the features previously recited in now-canceled claim 7, claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and claim 28 has been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter.

Therefore, claims 1 and 10 are submitted to be allowable for at least reasons similar to those that would have rendered claim 7 allowable if claim 7 had been rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 10 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT A

to
AMENDMENT
(Serial No. 10/722,957)